



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 11, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Grant Funding For Construction Of Tallant Road Bridge Steelhead Migration Barrier Removal And Mission Creek Restoration

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to accept grant funds from, and execute a grant agreement for \$397,000 with, the California Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Restoration Grant Program for the Mission Creek Fish Passage Project at the Tallant Road Bridge;
- B. Accept \$250,000 in grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Open Rivers Initiative Grant Program for the Mission Creek Fish Passage and Creek Restoration Project at the Tallant Road Bridge; and
- C. Increase the appropriation and estimated revenue by \$647,000 in the Creeks Division Capital Fund for the Mission Creek Fish Passage and Creek Restoration Project at the Tallant Road Bridge.

DISCUSSION:

Introduction

Over the last four years, the Creeks Division has worked with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Environmental Defense Center, and community members to remove barriers to steelhead trout migration and restore riparian habitat in Mission Creek.

Mission Creek is considered the most viable stream for steelhead trout restoration in the City of Santa Barbara. Mission Creek contains high quality spawning and rearing habitat within the stream channels in the mid and upper watershed and currently has an existing population of rainbow trout (freshwater version of steelhead trout). Mission Creek also has a documented historic run of steelhead trout, and in five of the last seven years, steelhead

trout have been recorded attempting to migrate upstream without success due to barriers within the stream channel.

The Tallant Road Bridge and associated concrete apron is a significant barrier to upstream steelhead trout migration on Mission Creek. Removing this barrier will help provide access for steelhead trout to 3.9 miles of creek channel, which include 2 miles of moderate to high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

In October 2008, the Creeks Division applied for a grant from NOAA to construct the Mission Creek Fish Passage and Restoration Project at the Tallant Road Bridge. In August 2009, NOAA awarded \$250,000 to the City for project construction.

In May 2009, the Creeks Division applied for a grant from the CDFG to construct the Mission Creek Fish Passage and Restoration Project at the Tallant Road Bridge. In March 2010, CDFG awarded the City \$397,000 in grant funds for the project. CDFG requires a Resolution (attached) from the City Council authorizing acceptance of the grant funds and execution of the grant agreement.

In April 2010, construction plans and permitting were completed for the fish passage and creek restoration project at the Tallant Road Bridge. Pending Council approval, the NOAA and CDFG grant funds will be used for construction of the project. With an estimated construction cost of \$963,160, the remaining construction costs would be covered by funds currently appropriated in the Creeks Capital Program. The Creeks Division and Public Works Engineering Division will return to Council in June with a construction contract for approval. Project construction is scheduled to begin in July 2010 and be completed in October 2010.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The purpose of the project is to improve steelhead trout migration and riparian habitat in Mission Creek. These efforts will contribute to local, regional, and federal objectives of removing migration barriers for the federally endangered steelhead trout and will provide important wildlife habitat within the Mission Creek watershed.

PREPARED BY: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office